

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

**Amendment**

**In the Claims**

1. (previously presented) A method of treating cachexia in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of a β receptor blocker or a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone which reduces in an effective amount to reduce sympathetic nervous system activity.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 2 wherein the compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone is an aldosterone antagonist.

4. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the aldosterone antagonist is selected from the group consisting of spironolactone, testolactone, RU40555, RU26752, canrenoate, eplerenone, 3-(17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxoandrosta-1,4,6,11-tetraen-17 $\alpha$ -yl) propionic acid  $\gamma$  lactone, 3-(9- $\alpha$ -fluoro-17  $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxo-androsta-4-en-17  $\alpha$ -yl) propionic acid  $\gamma$  lactone, dihydro-spirorenone, spirorenone, 15,16-methylene derivatives of spironolactone, mespirenone and SC9420.

5.-9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 9 wherein the  $\beta$  receptor blocker is selected from the group consisting of acebutolol, alprenolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bisoprolol, carteolol, celiprolol, esmolol, labetolol, lLovobunolol, metipranolol, metoprolol, nadolol, oxprenolol, penbutolol, pindolol, propanolol, sotalol, timolol, nebivolol, carvedilol and bucindolol.

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11.-18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drug reduces sympathetic nervous system activity by affecting cardiovascular reflexes.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an opiate.

21. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 20 wherein the opiate is selected from the group consisting of dihydrocodeine, morphine, diamorphine and buprenorphine.

22.-28. (canceled).

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the cachexia results from an underlying disease is selected from the group consisting of AIDS, liver cirrhosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with or without emphysema, chronic renal failure, chronic infections, cancer, heart disease including hypertension and chronic heart failure.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the patient has idiopathic cachexia.

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the underlying disease is chronic heart failure and the patient has cardiac cachexia.

Claims 32-47. (canceled).